from Koppa to Chikmagalur. Year after year they become almost impassable in the monsoon. A rumour has reached the Association that the present Executive Engineer is cutting down the rates. The Association hope that this is not the case.

Dewan's reply.—The point is noted. Government will do all that may be necessary to keep the roads in fair order and the attention of the Chief Engineer will be drawn to the remarks now submitted by Representatives.

Subject No. 19. Game Law.

Summary of Discussion.—Some two years ago, the draft of a Game Preservation Act was submitted to the North Mysore Planters' Association when it expressed its complete approval of the same and the Association would be glad to know what progress it has made towards becoming Law. Unless immediate action were taken there would be hardly any game to protect.

Mr. Elliott also spoke a few words to urge the importance of this Act on the notice of Government; he said that the first sign of advancing civilization was the protection of wild animals. A Game Law was often one of the earliest laws enacted in British Colonies. A Game Law was very much needed in Mysore, where for instance, the spotted deer is becoming very rare, if not extinct. And it is so with Bison. The killing of cow-Bisons is as unsportsmanlike as it is opposed to Hindu feeling, and it behoves Mysore as a Native State to be particularly jealous of its wild animals. Early legislation is necessary.

Dewan's reply.—The Madras Government sent up a measure very much like that which was proposed for Mysore, but the Secretary of State vetoed it on the ground chiefly that it would interfere with the ordinary rights and privileges of subjects. It is well therefore that we should revise our proposals, so as to meet the objection taken to the Madras measure. The precise nature of these objections is being ascertained. The whole subject is engaging the consideration of Government.

Subject No. 20. Railways.

Summary of Discussion.—The North Mysore Planters' Association wished to inform Government of the immense benefit that the Railway running through Kadur is to them, and to express a hope that at some time not very distant date, they may see French-Rocks, Hassan, Chikmagalur and Kadur connected by rail. They also most fully appreciate the advantage of having a line of telegraph running through the Planting Districts.

On this subject, a subsequent speaker (Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Representative from the Chikmagalur Municipality) spoke to the effect that even more than a branch line of Railway to Shimoga, a line from Kadur to Mangalore was important, and would prove most valuable by opening out a large tract of

fertile country. Goods to Her Majesty's territory from Kadur and Shimoga Districts are now sent by carts and not by railway, because they have to break bulk at Kadur. Mr. Muhammed Ali (Representative from Chikmagalur Municipality) submitted that a Railway connection between Chikmagalur and Kadur would not be as beneficial, as if the line, instead of stopping at Chikmagalur, were extended into the Malnad farther inwards.

Dewan's reply.—The general question of Railway extension in Mysore is engaging the best attention of Government. Unless the Madras Government construct their portion of the line to Mangalore, it is useless to consider the question of a Railway from Kadur to Mangalore.

Note.—Mr. Buchanan went on to say, "I have thus, as "briefly as possible, stated our requirements and have now "only to ask that something definite regarding them may be "decided on. This is the 4th year that we have enjoyed the "privilege of personally explaining the wants and necessities "of the different districts we have the honor to represent; "but I regret to say that some of the most important of these "still await settlement. In conclusion, I wish to take this "opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the Association I re-"present, its hearty thanks for the readiness and unfailing "courtesy with which the Government of His Highness the "Maharaja invariably receives the suggestions and requests "made to it from time to time."

Subject No. 21. Gold Quartz Stealing Prevention Act.

Summary of discussion.—A special enactment is required to prevent theft of quartz and punish thieves. The existing criminal law is not adequate. A draft law was prepared and submitted, but has not yet become law. The losses which the several gold mining companies incur from theft are considerable, and are increasing in proportion to the increase in the out-put of the pits. The proposed Regulation is therefore urgently required.

Dewan's reply.—The Quartz Stealing Prevention Act is now before the Government of India and application will be made for its early disposal.

Subject No. 22. Introduction of the Panchayet system.

Summary of discussion.—The system of getting disputes settled by Panchayets should be introduced into Mysore. It was promised years ago by the late Dewan Mr. Rangacharlu. Litigation in Civil Courts is expensive and inconvenient, first on account of the heavy Court costs and lawyers' fees, and next, on account of the fact that witnesses often speak falsely, and again because numerous adjournments, in themselves inconvenient, are particularly so in small suits, and parties and witnesses whose pursuits are agricultural cannot afford to waste time in attending courts, neglecting their fields. Whereas, if local Panchayets could be had recourse to, there would